

The Birmingham Eccentric
Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich., in The Eccentric Building, 159 North ...

Subscription Rates
(In Oklahoma Country) ... (Outside Oklahoma Country) ...

The Eccentric is a member of National Editorial Association, Michigan Press Association, University Press Club, and Oklahoma County Weekly Press Association

THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 1939

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have new value and which are written by persons not connected with the editorial staff of the paper. All copy must be submitted before noon ...

What Is A "Tax Authority?"
... The tax authority is an authority on taxation. The most recent reference of this kind we came upon refers to State Senator George P. McCallum, chairman of the Michigan Taxation Committee of Michigan's Legislature.

Now, folks, we have considerable respect for much of Senator McCallum's abilities; but when it comes to sound taxation and his real understanding of economics we respectfully rate him along with most other public "tax authorities" only as a first-rate expert on an expert on human inventions to tax people.

Well, it seems that the country is safe in New York State, where the Court of Appeals has ruled that children can be compelled to salute the American flag.

So, for the sake of keeping the record straight, we suggest that our readers differentiate between a tax "coroner" and a skilled specialist; and, when you are sick and tired and in need of death of the weight of your growing tax burden, determine to get acquainted with sound economic principles.

The alphabet has been described, with some accuracy, as the greatest invention of man. The number of signs to denote the elementary sounds of the language is generally ascribed to the Semites and, by the leading Phoenicians, carried to the Greeks, and the West.

Who Invented The Alphabet?
... The alphabet has been described, with some accuracy, as the greatest invention of man. The number of signs to denote the elementary sounds of the language is generally ascribed to the Semites and, by the leading Phoenicians, carried to the Greeks, and the West.

Whether "talking books" for the blind are adapted to classroom use for children is another general use, it is interesting to know that the recorded discs, closely resembling phonograph records, are now bringing pleasure to thousands of blind persons.

Talking Books
... Whether "talking books" for the blind are adapted to classroom use for children is another general use, it is interesting to know that the recorded discs, closely resembling phonograph records, are now bringing pleasure to thousands of blind persons.

Do You Know That One of Michigan's Supreme Court Justices, Thomas McCallister, Democrat, who gets \$12,000 annually from the State, lives in Washington, and spends but few weeks each year at Lansing, to hear cases? How can a man who sits on such a high Court, representing one stratum of the aristocracy of thought, accept his salary and not spend more time on the job? Michigan lawyers ought to sponsor legislation that will make these Justices earn more of their money.

ONE WAY THAT LADIES of Michigan can help Michigan farmers is to buy as much sugar as possible, Michigan grown honey, too, is good for the months when the stomachs of those who sit at Michigan ladies' tables.

Optimism vs. Pessimism
... A few excellent anecdotes, showing the value of optimism over pessimism, are herewith presented from a recent issue of The Saturday Evening Post.

William Lyon Phelps, distinguished humorist, critic, knows the strange pair, too. The pessimist, he explains, looks at a bottle of whatever you please and wails, "O, woe, it's half gone." The optimist, sipping the same container, exclaims, "Great, it's still half full!"

Humorist Billy Van has been the "sparkplug" at many a sales meeting. Sometimes, in such groups, he holds up a large map of the United States. On it, somewhere, is a black patch, small as a thumbnail. "Now, gentlemen," he asks, "what do you see on this map?" Almost to a man the answer is, "A black spot." But he counts the day saved when one or two of the salesmen reply instead, "A lot of clean white territory which is wide open for our product."

Currently popular and worth a wide audience is the story, its origin unknown, about two little girls who were frisking about in a strange garden. "What do you see on this map?" Almost to a man the answer is, "A black spot." But he counts the day saved when one or two of the salesmen reply instead, "A lot of clean white territory which is wide open for our product."

Presently her small sister came skipping up the path and cried, "Mother, I love this tree. I've been all around and every thorn tree has such pretty roses growing on it."

When King George and Queen Elizabeth of Great Britain visit the United States this year, it will be the first time that reigning sovereigns of the British Empire have set their feet upon the soil of the former British colonies.

The visit of the royal personages will not be altogether insignificant. It will mark the steady narrowing of the friendly wedge between our English-speaking peoples and give royal affirmation, if it be needed, that the feud between the former colonies and the Mother-country has ended.

We feel sure that almost all of the citizens of this country will welcome the visit of the British King and Queen. Neither the purpose nor the occasion is friendly to the American citizen. They will be received with the same cordial welcome that this country has extended to other visiting members of royal families.

Well, it seems that the country is safe in New York State, where the Court of Appeals has ruled that children can be compelled to salute the American flag.

The case involved a girl of thirteen, who refused to salute the flag because of her belief that the Bible forbade her to bow down to "images." Her father and the district attorney, in his religious ideas, we doubt if the United States, as a nation, gains very much by compelling her to violate her conscience and salute the American flag.

The same question has come up in other states, where legislators, anxious to demonstrate their devotion to the flag, have ordered public school children to salute the flag. Occasionally, school authorities discover pupils whose professed religious beliefs teach them that they should not salute the flag.

In such cases, it seems, the security and safety of the United States depends on the force of the law be invoked and that the little child, hardly old enough to understand the implications of a refusal to render the salute of loyalty, is compelled to violate his or her conscience or suffer punishment.

The chances are that these children, if left alone, would be anxious to salute the American flag in later years, as they understand the significance of its government. Consequently, it seems to us, that, regardless of law, school officials and public prosecutors might just as well forget any incidents affecting a pupil who declines to salute the flag.

WE LISTENED to a glossy portion of Rev. Charles E. Coughlin's radio talk last Sunday as we were driving through the hills of southern Kentucky; when we pondered his "program of action," we came to this general conclusion: "Charlie is making a pretty nutty job of his economic and his idea of democratic processes of government."

HARRY L. HOPKINS, Secretary of Commerce, made a good speech at Des Moines, asserting, business that "government wants business to sit on the same side of the table and bring about prosperity." That's fine, Mr. Hopkins. If the Roosevelt administration has obtained a new deck of cards, shuffled them well, then let's drop the game going. But be sure the jokers are out of the deck.

THE RECENT REPUBLICAN State Convention, held in Flint, again proved that Eddie Barnard, Chairman of the Michigan Republican Party, still in control of the Party's maneuver. What grand day it will be when Governor Fitzgerald ties the can to this triumvirate. Of the three, we can accept McPherson as timber for civic reform—but not Barnard and McKay, whose interest in politics is purely business.

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

Fifty Years Ago Feb. 28, 1889

The house-warming at Albert Todd's residence on Friday last week was a brilliant affair. About 7 o'clock the guests began to arrive and kept up until about 2:00 were present. The house was lit from top to bottom and everyone present had a good time. The house without doubt the finest farm residence in this community. It is heated from coal and has the latest and improved heaters and has all the modern conveniences for a handy and handsome farm residence.

Mrs. Peter Reid presented her husband with a fine crib baby on Saturday night. The baby weighed 14 pounds and was very healthy. The father and mother were very pleased with the result. The baby is named Harold and is the first child born to the family.

J. Allen Bigelow is a candidate for the office of U. S. postman agent in Detroit and he hopes he will be successful. He is certainly capable and deserving and we think he ought to have the appointment. A great number of candidates for the office have been named but Mr. Bigelow has the most of the best qualifications for the office.

Twenty Five Years Ago Feb. 27, 1914

Speaking about people mistaking you for another personage, a Birmingham resident said that contracting business has all been beaten to a standstill here in Birmingham. The field is "rotten" and it is a pity that it is so. The field is "rotten" and it is a pity that it is so. The field is "rotten" and it is a pity that it is so.

Each government department is represented at these fairs, not as an individual unit but in cooperation with other departments in special exhibits. Participation by the Department of Agriculture is a good example of how these exhibits are organized.

WASHINGTON LETTER BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

You Can See How the Government Operates at Either World's Fair

WASHINGTON.—If you are planning to visit either the San Francisco or New York World's Fair, you may want to save yourself a trip to Washington to find out how government work is done.

The original of food staples in remote corners of the world is the transportation of such staples to the Department of Agriculture comes into this picture because of its so-called "plant hunters" who have been responsible for the introduction or discovery of many of the seeds. Another feature is the relation of income and diet.

THE Department of Agriculture is naturally the most important contributor to the food exhibit in New York. The diorama on food in two parts—production and commerce, social welfare, education, arts and recreation, food, internal protection, and relations and national defense.



Congressional Comment by Representative George A. Dondero

1917-1939-Adapted by Editor

To the Editor:

When the Independent Offices Appropriation Bill, 1940, H. R. 3743, was under consideration in the House, I discussed various features of the bill, particularly that appropriating funds for the construction of Gilbertville Dam and other dams in the TVA system.

There are a number of items in the bill which have my full approval. The appropriations for the Veterans Administration, the Civil Service Commission, the Loan Corporation, and many more. There are others which I cannot support.

One of the questions occupying the minds of the people today is how long can we continue to authorize \$9,000,000,000 budgets in the face of \$5,000,000,000 tax receipts?

It would be interesting, indeed, for the country to know why the Tennessee River prepared by the Army Engineers, at a cost of nearly a million dollars, has been abandoned and forgotten.

Sincerely yours, GEORGE A. DONDERO, U. S. CONGRESSMAN.

It means a vote for 160 million dollars, the estimated cost to complete the three projects. It seems to be the theory that the Congress votes to embark upon a costly folly the Federal Government is compelled to complete it.

Originally it was estimated that the installed capacity of Gilbertville Dam would be 192,000 kilowatts. It is now known, from the testimony of Mr. J. S. Krug, chief power planning engineer for TVA, that the TVA intends to install but 128,000 kilowatts at Gilbertville, or 64,000 less than the figure previously stated and 32,000 less than the 160,000 kilowatts now considered as the ultimate capacity of this project.

The TVA yardstick is not an honest yardstick, and the claims being made for it are mostly the result of arbitrary allotments of money, questionable bookkeeping, and an attempt to paint a rainbow of abundant life under planned economy at a terrific cost to the taxpayers of the country. If the TVA operated under the same conditions as private utilities, it would not make the claims and representations attributed to it.

Instead of a profit, it is operating at a deficit; and the power feature alone, if charged with a very low interest rate of 3 1/2 per cent, would show a deficit of more than 2 1/2 million dollars for 1938.

When a boy skips school in his home country, he isn't necessarily playing hooky. He may be playing hooky.

A New English dance is to replace the British "Lambeth Walk" in public favor. Soon jitterbugs will be speaking with an accent.

The dictaphone hasn't resulted in mass unemployment of stenographers yet. The dictating machine is uncomfortable on a guy's lap.

WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT Birmingham Office
Directors: W. M. CORNELIUS, HENRY T. EWALD, FRANK COUZENS, GEO. B. JUDSON, LEONARD L. HEALY, W. R. YAW, CLARENCE E. WILCOX
Your Bank in Birmingham
COMPLETE BANKING FACILITIES